

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 17, 24, and 25. These sheets, which include Figs. 17, 24, and 25, replace the original sheets including Figs. 17, 24 and 25. Replacement Figures 17 and 24 now properly recite the term “A’(f,m)<sup>+</sup>” for each of steps S71 and S91, respectively. Further, replacement Figure 25 now properly labels element 601-k, which was originally improperly labeled as element 602-k.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification and claims are amended to correct minor informalities and to make clarifications. The changes made to the specification and claims are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Further, replacement Figures 17, 24, and 25 are submitted herein. Replacement Figures 17 and 24 now properly recite the term “A’(f,m)⁺” for each of steps S71 and S91, respectively. That corrects for a minor informality in original Figures 17 and 24. Further, replacement Figure 25 now properly labels element 601-k, which was originally improperly labeled as element 602-k. The replacement figures are believed to only correct minor informalities and not raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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